



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
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IN REPLY REFER TO

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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
CALTRANS, 1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
For Rambabu Bavirisetty, Office of Federal Transportation Program

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: FSTIP AMENDMENT No. 1 (Kings County)

On February 26, 2001, Caltrans submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) a request for approval of the programming modifications in Kings County into California's 2000/01-2002/03 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Caltrans air quality conformity analysis indicates that all air quality conformity requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) August 16, 1997, Transportation Conformity Rule, 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 (Transportation Conformity Rule) have been met.

FHWA and FTA have completed our review of the rural, non-MPO portion of Kings County amendment to the FSTIP. This amendment adds two State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) lump sum projects in Kings County; adds eleven Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) projects in various jurisdictions in Kings County; adds a lump sum for Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program projects; and adds two Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 projects in Kings county in FY 2000/01.

Projects CML-5091B (Construction of a rail spur on BNSF railroad in Handford Industrial Park) and CML-5115A (Upgrade on the UP/SJVR Coalinga branchline between Visalia and Huron) are approved as experimental pilot projects and are obligated to meet the reporting requirements outlined for such projects in the April 1999, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Guidance. CMAQ program guidance is accessible via the internet at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/cmaq99gm.htm>. All CMAQ funded projects and any subsequent changes to projects associated with the experimental pilot projects must meet the CMAQ program criteria and the April 1999 Program Guidance.

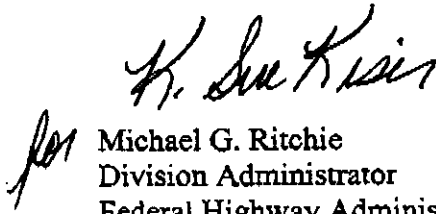
The changes made to the program by this amendment have been found by Caltrans to conform to the applicable air quality regulations or are exempt from the conformity determination requirement. Therefore, we find this FSTIP conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). This finding has been coordinated with the Regional EPA office.

We also find that this FSTIP amendment for Kings County was developed on a continuing, cooperative, comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134, Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53), 23 CFR 450. This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of the amendment into California's 2000/01-2002/03 FSTIP. Furthermore, this approval is made with the understanding that FTA funding approval on individual projects is subject to the grantees meeting all necessary FTA administration requirements.

Sincerely,



Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration



Michael G. Ritchie
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Cc: 2000/01-2002/03 FSTIP Binder, with copy of Caltrans letter
Kings County
COFCG
Donna Turchie, FTA
Karina O'Connor, EPA
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